



# **Report on the 26th Meeting of the Contact Persons of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF)**

*Online, 18 November 2021*

*This document provides a concise summary of the meeting. The presentations are available on the EGF website.*

### **1. Introduction and welcome by Ms Ruth Paserman - Director Directorate G "Funds: Programming and Implementation", DG EMPL, and adoption of the agenda**

### **2. Update on EGF since the last Contact Persons meeting**

The Commission presented the state of play of EGF final reports, closures, recoveries, and applications received.

Representative from Greece explained that the high recovery rate of the case EGF/2018/003/EL/Attica publishing was mainly due to the lower than expected number of participants. Also the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact by, for example, discouraging people to start new businesses. Greece also informed about the possibility of two new EGF applications currently under consideration.

### **3. The 2021–2027 EGF Regulation – what is the experience from the applications so far?**

The Commission presented the experience gained so far from the applications received under the 2021-2027 EGF Regulation. Overall, the experience is positive. The Commission provided clarification on the content expected in the applications, related to:

- description of the events that led to the job losses;
- expected impact of the redundancies as regards the local, regional or national economy and employment;
- explanation of application of the EU Quality Framework for anticipation of change and restructuring (QFR);
- additional information on targeted beneficiaries; and
- horizontal elements (digital skills and green skills).

The Commission emphasised the importance to contact the EGF team early on, before submitting an application, and reminded Member States to add explanations on the national specificities and up-to-date information on sources and list of references. It is also important to include in the application reasoning why a European intervention is necessary in the case.

### **4. System for Fund Management (SFC) 2021 – where do we stand?**

The Commission presented the state of play of the SFC2021. The tool has been updated according to the requirements of the 2021-2027 EGF Regulation, and is now available for the Member States to submit new EGF applications.

Data from the applications received in 2021 in Word format is retroactively encoded into SFC2021 by the Commission, and the responsible MS authorities will be asked to validate these applications in SFC2021.

## **5. Updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) post 2020**

Following the adoption of the new EGF Regulation, 17 new FAQs have been introduced and eight updated. The Commission presented a small selection of the new and updated questions, but the presentation shared with the participants after the meeting includes most of the new FAQs. The English version of the revised FAQs will be published on the EGF website at the beginning of December, followed by translations as soon as available.

## **6. Comitology, EGF Advisory committee**

The Commission briefly presented the main principles of comitology included in the 2021-2027 EGF Regulation. The Commission shall be assisted by an advisory committee in adopting the two implementing acts foreseen in the Regulation:

- an implementing act setting out when and how a beneficiary survey is to be conducted and the template to be used (Art 22(6)); and
- an implementing act setting out the format to be used for reporting of irregularities (Art 23(7)).

The committee will give their opinion on the draft implementing acts.

Member States will soon be invited, via the Permanent Representations, to designate one member and one alternate to the new EGF advisory committee.

## **7. EGF ex-post evaluation for the 2014-2020 programming period**

The study supporting the EGF *ex post* evaluation for the 2014-2020 programming period was published in January 2021. The Commission Staff Working Document, based on the supporting study and other sources, will be adopted by mid-December 2021, and published soon after that.

## **8. EGF Biennial report 2019-2020**

The report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the activities of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) in 2019 and 2020 has been published and is available in all EU languages in [EUR-Lex](#).

### **9.1 Communicating about the EGF**

The Commission presented the main rules and principles on communicating about the EGF, and shared some good practices and examples on effective communication, focusing in particular on digital communication and social media. Additional slides with links to examples are available in the presentation shared with the participants after the meeting.

## **9.2 Member States' communication activities and planned events**

The German representative informed about an online information conference on the new EGF Regulation held in June, which was attended by some high level politicians. During this event, Peter Besselmann from the EGF team delivered a presentation on the new Regulation. The changes to the EGF Regulation making it more flexible and less burdensome to prepare an application were highly appreciated by the participants.

The representative from Belgium informed that they will have an EGF communication event in mid-December, focusing on previous and current cases. Marta Alvarez from the EGF team is invited to present the new EGF Regulation at the event.

## **9.3 Next EGF Contact Persons Meeting and Networking Seminar**

The next EGF Contact Persons Meeting and Networking Seminar will be held in Brussels or online in May 2022, depending on the Covid-19 situation.

A back-to-back meeting of the EGF advisory committee is also possible during those same days.

## **10. Q&A session and AOB**

The French representative asked whether any specific action is needed with regard to the General Data Protection Regulation. The Commission replied that there is nothing specific related to the GDPR under EGF, but that the general rules have to be followed. The Commission underlined the need to find the right balance between protection of personal data and the need to collect data to illustrate the EU added value and support the case towards the Parliament and Council.

## **11. Wrap-up of the meeting**

The Commission thanked all participants for the productive meeting, and also for the productive year with seven new applications.